



MAY 3 2001

Washington, D.C. 20201

FROM: Terrence J. Tychan *Terrence J. Tychan*
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Grants and Acquisition Management

TO: Contracting Officers and Buyers

SUBJECT: The Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program

The purpose of this memorandum is to update all acquisition personnel on the Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program and to request your active participation in this unique Federal procurement initiative.

The Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program gets its name from its enabling legislation, the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act of 1971 (41 U.S.C. 46-48c.) The Act established this Program as a priority source of supply for all Federal agencies. It calls upon those who buy for the Government to purchase both products and services from over 600 JWOD-participating not-for-profit businesses nationwide that employ people who are blind or who have other severe disabilities. To assure compliance with Federal acquisition requirements these community-based nonprofit enterprises associate with one of two national organizations that provide technical assistance and other support services – National Industries for the Blind (NIB) and NISH (serving people with a range of severe disabilities.)

A number of JWOD-participating businesses have demonstrated they can meet our delivery and quality requirements at fair market prices and are currently supplying products and services to the Department of Health and Human Services. For example, a JWOD-participating nonprofit agency performs mailing services for the FDA in Washington, DC. Another provides custodial services and ground maintenance for NIOSH in Morgantown, West Virginia. Administrative support services are also being provided to the National Center for Toxicological Research in Jefferson, Arkansas.

The JWOD Program also furnishes both common-use and special-purpose supplies to meet Department requirements. Many JWOD items use the SKILCRAFT trade name, and the selection ranges from environmentally friendly office supplies and cleaning products to medical supplies, clothing and textiles. Please note that the JWOD Program is also a priority source of supply for all of the Government purchase card users, and I ask for your assistance in making sure that the Department's cardholders are aware of their responsibility to check JWOD before shopping elsewhere. Additionally, certain cardholders with the requisite authorization may use the purchase card to pay for JWOD service contracts once they are in place.

To purchase JWOD office products and other common use items electronically, you may access the Program's electronic catalog at www.jwod.com. Items may also be purchased through GSA at www.gsaadvantage.gov, many of the Department's self-service supply stores and a number of authorized JWOD commercial distributors.

To learn more about the full range of JWOD products and services, please review the Program's web site at www.jwod.gov. This site is maintained by the independent Federal agency, which administers the JWOD Program, the Committee For Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled. The site also links to the web sites for National Industries for the Blind (www.nib.org) and NISH (www.nish.org.) For contracting personnel interested in exploring the Program's service capabilities, these sites also provide national and regional office Contact information.

Ms. Debbie Ridgely, Director, Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, is the HHS liaison with the JWOD Program and can provide additional information about how the Program works. She may be contacted at (202) 690-7300 or debbie.ridgely@hhs.gov.

This important socioeconomic procurement initiative provides the HHS acquisition workforce with a unique opportunity to help reduce the 70% unemployment rate which exists among Americans with disabilities. I urge you to learn more about JWOD and to find ways that community based nonprofit organizations participating in the Program can assist us in meeting our needs for quality goods and services.